

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15 are pending. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview on April 10, 2007. As the examiner noted in the Interview Summary, the applicant has put additional functional language in claims 1 and 11 to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art.

First, Applicant addresses the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The examiner states that “vehicle seat” has no antecedent in claim 1 in the preamble. This rejection is traversed because claim 1 does, in fact, recite a “vehicle seat” in the preamble in line 1 of the claim. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

The examiner also objected to the lack of antecedent basis for “the borders” in claims 1 and 11. Although applicant believes that understanding of “the borders” is inherent in the claim language, claims 1 and 11 have be further amended to clarify this aspect of the claims.

The examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Re. 35,572 to *Lloyd, et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner’s position in this regard.

As previously discussed with the examiner, the distinction between *Lloyd, et al.* and the present application is that *Lloyd, et al. introduces* air to the air spring when the travel of the seat is downward and releases air from the air spring when the travel of the seat is upward (see col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 5 of *Lloyd, et al.*); whereas, the present invention *switches off* the additional

air supply both when the seat moves upward or downward beyond the predefined comfort zone where the additional air supply is *switched on*. That is, while in *Lloyd, et al.*, air is introduced, for example, into the defined space of the air spring, which will thereby increase the air pressure in the spring, it is understood that in the present invention a separate defined container of air is connected or disconnected to the air spring. Thus, the present invention thereby reduces the total volume of the defined space containing the air by switching closed the connection between the defined spaces. This is made more clear by the present amendment to claims 1 and 11 wherein it states that switching off the additional volume causes the volume in which the air to be compressed to be reduced in the out-of-comfort range.

Since claim 1 and 11 should be allowable, claims 2-10, 12, 13 and 15 dependent thereon should also be allowable.

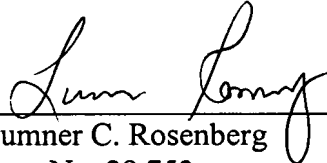
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Respectfully submitted,

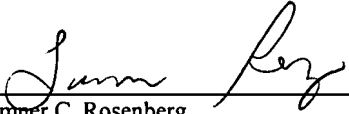
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